Estuarine and Great Lakes (EaGLe) Data Archival in the Environmental Information Management System (EIMS)

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EPA's Office of Research and Development has used the Scientific Environmental Information Management System (EIMS) as the repository for the long-term archival of scientific data produced by the Science To Achieve Results (STAR) grants. The EIMS system will store the data in XML schema Environmental Markup Language (EML) format, creating federally-compliant data and metadata.

This effort has EIMS partnering with the National Center for Environmental Research (NCER) STAR program to provide data and metadata archival and retrieval capabilities for the scientific data generated by the five STAR research centers comprising the Estuarine and Great Lakes Program (EaGLe). These five centers collectively have hundreds of researchers generating environmental data that needs to be archived in the most useful format possible. The EIMS EaGLe website offers keyword and advanced search capabilities into the EIMS database to address these requirements.

EIMS (which has an existing framework for searching, preserving, administering, and controlling access to metadata and data) was chosen for centralized EaGLe data storage. Existing procedures for uploading data and metadata in XML format provided immediate support for EaGLe requirements, but variance in the types of data produced by the five research centers required use of the EML schema to provide data standardization. The EML schema for environmental data will provide much better search capabilities and metadata than are typically available for archival data.